



Think-tank suggests tax shift

Alternative HRM budget proposal would kill "problematic" property taxes, bump up income tax by four per cent PAGE 3

SCARY STUFF BUT DON'T CALL IT HORROR

JEFFREY DEAN MORGAN SAYS THE POSSESSION IS A FILM ABOUT CHARACTER, NOT GORE PAGE 15

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Wednesday, August 29, 2012

News worth sharing.

Duo looking to have a ball in Halifax

World beach

volleyball. Event back for second-straight year



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Melissa Humana-Paredes gave beach volleyball fans plenty to cheer about on the Sands at Salter in Halifax last year. If things go according to plan, they'll be cheering even louder this year.

A silver-medal winner with Victoria Altomare as the stars of last year's FIVB world junior beach volleyball championships in Halifax, the Toronto native has returned to the waterfront this week and is going for gold with a new partner.

Humana-Paredes has teamed up with Winnipeg's Taylor Pischke now that Altomare is too old for the under-21 tournament.

"I'm really excited to be back," Humana-Paredes said. "It's kind of like my second home. I'm really comfortable here, people here are really friendly, the venue looks incredible, and I'm glad to be here."

The five-day event, which drew 15,000 fans last year, kicks off Wednesday with 81 teams from 34 countries competing on the temporary five-court facility.

Humana-Paredes had been

partners with Altomare for several years, but joined forces with Pischke in May. The 19-year-olds hit it off instantly and have plenty of momentum after winning the Canadian senior title in Vancouver earlier this month.

"I'd been playing with Victoria for so long, to change partners was difficult, but it had to be done," Humana-Paredes said. "I'm glad it worked out for the best. Taylor's awesome, we have good chemistry and it's worked out really well."

Organizers are expecting crowds approaching 20,000, with the spotlight centred on five Canadian entries — three on the women's side, two on the men's side.

"I think we have a good shot if we stay focused and control our nerves," Pischke said. "We need to take care of our side and not worry about our opponent."

Humana-Paredes added: "I think with all the pressure on us, we just have to ignore it and play like we did at the nationals. Once that's done, the rest will come together."

Sands at Salter

"It's one of the top venues I've seen.... It's incredible that they can pull this off in a parking lot." Canadian beach volleyball star

Melissa Humana-Paredes



Canadians Taylor Pischke, left, and Melissa Humana-Paredes pose for a photo at the Sands at Salter in Halifax on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

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Cut property taxes and raise income tax: Think-tank

Alternative budget.

Group makes 65 recommendations on everything from a tax shift to social issues



RUTH DAVENPORT

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An alternative municipal budget proposed for HRM suggests cutting property taxes and filling the void with income taxes.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives-Nova Scotia says almost 80 per cent of HRM's revenue comes from what it calls "problematic and controversial" property taxes.

The group recommends implementing a four per cent surcharge on provincial income tax, which would raise an additional \$50 million in revenue. Over time, the alternative budget proposes bringing in a progressively larger surcharge to lessen the dependency on property taxes.

Mike Bradfield, a retired Dalhousie economics professor, says an income-tax surcharge is inherently more sustainable because it's directly related to a person's ability to pay.

Other suggestions

- Reallocate all taxes — \$114.9 million — currently collected for provincial services, such as schools and correctional services.
- Invest \$31 million for light rail between Truro and Halifax.
- Disposable cup tax.



Halifax regional council meets in the basement of the World Trade and Convention Centre earlier this month, while city hall undergoes renovations. The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives-Nova Scotia is calling for a major renovation of the municipal tax base. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Missed opportunity

Arts funding lags in HRM: Study

A surprising fact that emerged in the alternative budget was the discrepancy in funding for arts and culture in HRM.

The CCPA-NS report shows per capita culture funding in HRM is a meagre

\$0.53 per person, well below the national average of \$5.35.

Actor and director Hugo Dann, a member of the alternative budget working group, said there's a dearth of artistic facilities in HRM and suggested the new convention centre was a missed opportunity.

"We can measure that the economic impact of the new library will be

infinitely more sustainable and effective," he said. "If the foresight had been present to say that what is really needed in that space is a symphony hall with an opera-ballet stage and a black-box theatre, the economic impact would have been greater still."

Coun. Dawn Sloane said too many people believe the arts are just too expensive.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

1 NEWS

Mobile news



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Housing co-op heading into receivership

The heavily indebted North End United Housing Co-operative will likely be taken over by a receiver, its executive director says.

Members of the co-op met late last week to vote on a plan of arrangement that would have paid 17 contractors roughly half of what they're owed for renovations in 2010. The work went over budget, resulting in

a debt of more than \$1 million.

In July, a Supreme Court judge rejected a motion from the Nova Scotia Housing Development Corp. to appoint a receiver for the co-op, urging all sides to work out a deal.

The plan to pay contractors 50 cents on the dollar was rejected by the membership on Thursday night, NEU executive director Jonathan Hannam said

on Tuesday.

"We're very disappointed about it, but the membership can't afford to move forward," he said.

Joe MacLeod, owner of Reliable Rooter Ltd., says the contractors are disappointed, but mostly angry at the province, which he says is trying to force the co-op into receivership.

"Why wouldn't you give us

more time, as much time as needed?" he said. "NEU doesn't want to go under and we don't want to go without any money, period."

MacLeod contends the province has spent more than \$700,000 on legal costs so far, money he says would have been better spent helping the housing co-op pay down its debt.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

Court date

- Jonathan Hannam says the case will be back in court on Sept. 4, when the judge will likely appoint a receiver. He says the co-op's 131 units will be taken over by Community Services.



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Last seen Monday. Cops asking for public's help in locating missing man

Police are asking for the public's help in locating a missing Halifax man.

Paul Couvrette, 43, was last seen at his residence on Isleview Street at about 7 a.m. Monday and police say all efforts to contact him have been unsuccessful.

He is described as six-foot-three and 180 pounds with a shaved head and scruffy beard. He also has tattoos down both arms and on his neck.

Anyone with information on Couvrette's whereabouts is asked to contact police at



Paul Couvrette HALIFAX POLICE HANDOUT

902-490-5016 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

METRO

Stewiacke

Man wanted for drugstore heist

An armed robber who held up the Stewiacke Pharmacy Monday evening is still on the lam and being sought by the RCMP.

A man approached the

pharmacist at about 5:40 p.m. and asked for pills, then produced what police said appeared to be a handgun.

The suspect then went behind the counter and stole a variety of pills, ran out of the store, and got into a dark-coloured car and headed east on Main Street.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

NewPage. Judge rules company's bid to nix mill tax deal can proceed

A judge says an application to cancel a municipal tax deal for an idled Cape Breton paper mill can proceed.

Judge John Murphy ruled Tuesday the mill's prospective buyer, Pacific West Commercial Corp., can argue its case before the Nova Scotia Supreme Court in a hearing scheduled for Sept. 13.

Pacific West wants the court to terminate a May 2006 agreement between Richmond County and the plant's former owner, Stora Enso.

The agreement, which was later set out in provincial legislation, fixed municipal tax rates paid by the NewPage Port Hawkesbury mill for a 10-year period.

Extension granted

Also Tuesday, the mill was given an extension of its creditor protection until Sept. 28 by the Nova Scotia Supreme Court.

The company contends it should pay about one-sixth of its current estimated tax bill of \$2.5 million.

In a bid to head off the court proceeding, lawyers for Richmond County had argued that only the provincial legislature had the authority to amend a tax arrangement set out in legislation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Firefighters deal with blaze aftermath

Members of the Amherst Fire Department continued to pour water on the scene of a major downtown fire on Tuesday. The fire on Sunday night destroyed the century-old Windsor and Black blocks that housed the Victorian Arms Apartments and Dooly's. It's also left more than 30 people homeless. AMHERST DAILY NEWS

Lifeguards going, beach weather not

Safety first. Canadian Red Cross urging caution for those planning to swim over the next few weeks

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As summer draws to an end, the red-and-yellow lifeguard flags are beginning to disappear from beaches across Nova Scotia.

Many of them saw lifeguard service end for the season last weekend, but a handful of busy ones will stay open until Monday, including Rainbow Haven

and Queensland beaches.

But with warm weather predicted throughout September, there's a lot of swimming still left to do.

"In the ideal world, I think the beaches would be staffed," said Aileen Nauss, a water-safety technical associate for the Canadian Red Cross.

"But you're dealing with government money, and university students who are going back," she points out, about the majority of lifeguards who are returning to school.

Dan Fraser, Eastern Shore supervisor for the Nova Scotia Lifeguard Service, called it a "low summer" for area lifeguards, with normal weather conditions and no serious problems.

Staying out of hot water

Tips for people heading to beaches without lifeguards:

- Never swim alone.
- Stay hydrated.
- Only swim at a place you're familiar with.
- If you get stuck in a strong current, swim with it parallel to the shore until you find a calmer place to come ashore. Don't struggle.

Nauss said fatal water accidents actually happen most frequently around boats. According to the Lifesaving Society, nearly 500 people drown

across Canada each year, with 80 per cent drowning while boating and not wearing a life-jacket.

"People have been doing it all summer and they think, 'Well, the water's warm, it's no problem, I'm not going to bother wearing my life-jacket,'" Nauss said.

"I'm afraid we may exceed last year's (death rate) because it's such a gorgeous summer."

The popular Lawrencetown surfing beach, meanwhile, will be staffed with lifeguards on weekends until Sept. 16.

"There are a growing number of Nova Scotians choosing to surf in the winter," Fraser said. "There's definitely people in the water year round these days."



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Alleged apartment-rental scam strikes again

Investigation. Police received eight other complaints involving the same property earlier this year

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A Halifax apartment is back in the news for its second alleged rental scam in four months.

Halifax Regional Police are investigating a complaint concerning the apartment building at 1740 Robie St.

Police say a man who was supposed to rent an apartment inside the multi-storey house

lost hundreds of dollars in his deposit instead.

He viewed the space, met the landlord and even signed a lease after finding the post on Kijiji. But police say the landlord has since disconnected his phone and can't be located.

"The main thing is to exercise caution when looking for rental accommodations," advised Det. Const. Dana Drover, who is with Halifax police's integrated financial crime section.

"Don't be too quick to part with your money, and make sure you're dealing with a reputable company as best you can."

The Robie Street apartment has already been the site of an

Warning

"Don't be too quick to part with your money, and make sure you're dealing with a reputable company as best you can."

Det. Const. Dana Drover on deposits for rental properties

investigation this year.

Between April 11 and May 3, police say they received eight complaints of a similar type of scam.

Drover said all of the people involved lost their first month's rent and damage deposit.

Suggestions

Even if you've met your landlord and they seem respectable, Det. Const. Dana Drover said, it helps to pay with a cheque. If anything goes wrong, the police then can easily trace where the money was deposited.

"You can also check with the Better Business Bureau, to see if there have been complaints about that company or individual," he said.

The investigation is ongoing, and police are asking any other victims to contact them immediately.



The exterior of 1740 Robie St. — the property associated with an alleged apartment-rental scam. JEFF HARPER/METRO

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Report's finding

Temple killer had alcohol problems

The man who killed six Sikhs at a Wisconsin temple had a history of alcohol problems, says a report released Tuesday. Wade Michael Page, 40, died after shooting himself in the head.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Camouflage suit

'Fake Bigfoot' killed by cars

A man dressed in a military-style ghillie suit who was apparently trying to provoke reports of a Bigfoot sighting was struck by two cars and killed in northwest Montana.

Ghillie suits are a type of full-body clothing made to resemble heavy foliage and

used to camouflage military snipers.

Randy Lee Tenley, 44, of Kalispell "was trying to make people think he was Sasquatch so people would call in a Sasquatch sighting," Trooper Jim Schneider was reported as saying.

"I haven't seen or heard of anything like this before. Obviously, his suit made it difficult for people to see him." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cocaine claimed

Not only cheques in the mail?

Officials say a New Jersey letter carrier used her mail route to courier packages of cocaine for drug traffickers. Bail was set at \$100,000 for Christina Nunez, 30, in a Newark court Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buyer shocked

Storage unit hid body parts

Brains, hearts and lungs of about 100 people have been found in a Florida storage unit. Officials say it belonged to a former medical examiner. Someone bought the unit last week and noticed a foul smell. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sixteen charged

Hair-cut attacks called hate crime

Sixteen people have been charged with hate crimes — hair-cutting attacks in Ohio against followers of their Amish faith. Such hair-cutting are considered deeply offensive in the traditional Amish culture. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Rain drenches Bourbon Street in the French Quarter of New Orleans as hurricane Isaac zeroes in on the city Tuesday. DAVID J. PHILLIP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Don't tempt fate, Obama says as Big Easy braces for Isaac

A roiling tropical storm with the innocent-sounding name of Isaac turned into a potential mass killer late Tuesday.

Isaac became a full-blown Category 1 hurricane as it zeroed in on New Orleans — the Big Easy.

As Isaac made landfall in southeast Louisiana, tens of thousands of people hunkered down behind boarded-up windows with stockpiles

of food and water.

And New Orleans waited nervously behind flood-defence levees strengthened after devastating hurricane Katrina struck exactly seven years ago.

Streets famous for hosting celebrations at all hours were turned into ghost boulevards.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Isaac, with 130 km/h winds, had gained

strength as it moved over the warm, open waters of the Gulf.

"Now is not the time to tempt fate," U.S. President Barack Obama warned from the White House. "You need to take this seriously."

New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu did not activate a mandatory evacuation for Isaac. Instead, officials urged residents to hunker down

and make do with the supplies they had.

"We don't expect a Katrina-like event, but remember there are things about a Category 1 storm that can kill you," Landrieu said.

"Isaac is the son of Abraham," said Margaret Thomas, who chose to stay put in New Orleans. "It's a special name that means 'God will protect us.'" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New anguish over movie massacre

Fundraising furor

Organizers trading on the memory of 'our murdered loved ones,' emotional family members allege



Caren and Tom Teves, who lost a son in the shooting, embrace at a news conference Tuesday.

CHRIS SCHNEIDER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aurora shooting," said Tom Teves, whose son Alex was one of 12 people killed in the July 20 shootings.

Bullets flew at a midnight screening of The Dark Knight Rises at an Aurora movie theatre. Fifty-eight people were wounded.

At an emotional news conference, Teves demanded the fundraisers give the victims and their families a say in how the money is used.

The suspect in the shootings, 24-year-old James Eagan Holmes, is charged with multiple counts of murder and attempted murder. The next hearing in the case is Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Midair ruckus. Senator's wife escapes one charge

The wife of a Manitoba senator is no longer charged with endangering the safety of an aircraft.

The charge was dropped Tuesday when Maygan Sensenberger appeared in court in Saskatoon.

The 23-year-old is still accused of causing a disturbance and uttering threats.

Saskatoon police arrested the woman last week after she allegedly caused a ruckus on a flight from Ottawa while sitting with her husband, 69-year-old Sen. Rod Zimmer.

A witness says Zimmer



Maygan Sensenberger allegedly feared for her husband's health.

LIAM RICHARDS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

started having health problems on the flight and his wife got emotional about getting him medical treatment.

The case, however, was put over until Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Norwegian PM apologizes for mistakes during massacre

Emergency response.
Government promises new plan to deal with crises after 500-page report exposes flaws

Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg on Tuesday apologized for flaws in the response to last year's bomb and gun rampage by a right-wing extremist who killed 77 people. And he pledged sweeping measures to improve terror preparedness.

Stoltenberg told lawmakers that the government is adopting an emergency plan to deal with crises, including the establishment of a new emergency-response centre, improving co-operation between rescue teams and a quicker flow of information between officials.

His address to Parliament came in the wake of a 500-page report by a government-appointed commission that

Quoted

"We can never correct mistakes made in the past, but we can learn from the past."

Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg

exposed shortcomings in the Scandinavian country's crisis preparedness and highlighted police blunders during the July 22, 2011, attacks when Anders Behring Breivik gunned down 69 people on Utoya island after exploding a bomb in central Oslo, killing eight.

Breivik, who was convicted of terror and given a 21-year prison sentence that can be extended for as long as he's considered a threat to society, told the court that he had expected to be killed by police.

Instead, their bungled response allowed him to hunt down panicked teenagers on Utoya for more than an hour before they arrested him.

Also, a boat carrying a SWAT team to Utoya was overloaded and stalled, while Norway's only police helicopter wasn't used because its crew was on vacation.

On Tuesday, Stoltenberg conceded that as head of government he held the highest responsibility and that it had taken that responsibility and led the nation in the aftermath of the massacre.

Still, he conceded that mistakes had been made and listing the main conclusions of the report he said: "For this I apologize."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Norway's Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg, centre, pays tribute to victims of the twin attacks before a memorial service at Oslo Cathedral on Sunday.
EMILIO MORENATTI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republicans officially nominate Romney for president



Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, with his wife Ann and vice-presidential running mate, Rep. Paul Ryan, far right, and Ryan's wife, Janna, during a campaign rally in Manassas, Va., on Aug. 11. PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Republicans have nominated former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney for president, setting the stage for a close contest against President Barack Obama, as a hurricane was poised to hit the Gulf Coast.

In a roll call of states Tuesday, delegates from New Jersey gave Romney enough for the official nod, giving him the prize that eluded him four years ago in his first bid for president. Romney is scheduled to accept his party's nomination in a speech Thursday night.

The political festival aimed at bringing the party together

behind Romney and pitching him to a national audience, especially key independent voters, has shrunk to a three-day affair because of the storm. Monday's planned opening was symbolic and over in minutes.

Hurricane Isaac could rain down on a wide swath of the Gulf Coast, including New Orleans, around the same time Romney's wife, Ann, speaks to the convention Tuesday night. Her mission is to show a more personal side of a candidate the Obama campaign has tried to paint as a big-business titan out of touch with the struggles of

average Americans.

Polls show Romney and Obama running about even, but each man holds significant leads with voters in important areas that could sway the roughly 10 per cent of Americans who say they haven't settled yet on one man or the other.

Trying to balance leadership with campaigning, Obama delivered an update on Isaac from the White House before leaving on a three-state trip. "Now is not the time to tempt fate," he said. "You need to take this seriously." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Economy election

- Obama holds a big lead in polls as the candidate who best relates to the needs of poor and middle-class Americans.

- Romney is more highly regarded as the candidate who can restore the economy. Now he must reach out to more conservative Republicans who are wary of his more moderate views on social issues.

Ukraine

Jailed opposition leader makes appeal

Lawyers for Ukraine's jailed opposition leader, Yulia Tymoshenko, appealed to Europe's human-rights court Tuesday as her only hope for a fair hearing, accusing the government of rigging the criminal case against her. A lawyer for

the government denied any political motive and said her complaints about prison conditions and injuries were groundless.

An architect of Ukraine's 2004 Orange Revolution, Tymoshenko has been jailed since her arrest in a courtroom in August 2011, accused of negotiating a corrupt gas deal with Russia when she was prime minister. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yasser Arafat

Was Palestinian leader poisoned?

French prosecutors opened a murder inquiry into the death of Yasser Arafat on Tuesday, his widow's lawyer said, after she and a TV investigation raised new questions about whether the Palestinian leader was poisoned.

There have long been

rumours in the Arab world that Arafat was poisoned, and a Swiss lab's recent finding of elevated levels of polonium-210 — a rare and highly lethal radioactive substance — on Arafat's clothing has fed those claims. However, the Institute of Radiation Physics said its findings were inconclusive and that only exhuming Arafat's remains could bring possible clarity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Yasser Arafat THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Yulia Tymoshenko's daughter, Eugenia, listens to one of her mother's lawyers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Syrians, who fled their homes due to fighting between the Syrian army and the rebels, shout slogans as they march toward the Turkish side of the border, during a protest asking the Turkish government to let them enter their refugee camps, at a border crossing near the Syrian town of Azaz Tuesday. MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrian opposition exiles pen plan for democracy

Skeptics. Rebels and civilians doubt leaders' plan will effect change

In the foreign halls of power, the strategy is clear: Syria's opposition should unite to present an alternative to Bashar Assad's rule — a step France's president says would lead to diplomatic recognition.

As a move toward unity, Syrian exiles from the main opposition Syrian National Council and other groups unveiled a blueprint Tuesday in the German capital of Berlin for transition to a democratic, transparent society free of religious and ethnic favouritism.

But rebels and civilians in the bomb-shattered Syrian town of Azaz near the Turkish border view such talk as hollow. They are deeply sceptical of all exiled leaders and believe what really matters is their fight on the ground to overthrow the regime.

"They have never come up with a united position that will save the people," said Fadi Hajji, 25, who had been

camped out along the Syrian border in Turkey with his wife and two infant daughters for five days. "All they are good at is arguing. They don't represent anyone here and they don't help."

With no end to the carnage in sight, French President François Hollande called on the Syrian opposition Monday to form a provisional government, saying France would recognize and support it.

Hollande's statement is believed to be the first of its kind.

Many in the SNC have been hoping the world community would impose a safe zone along the Turkish border, possibly extending to a no-fly zone over at least some areas, and would more openly supply weapons and ammunition to rebels. The disparate groups are also each hoping for support in any power struggle that might follow a collapse of the Assad regime.

As the war inside Syria appears to be grinding to a stalemate, so too is the political struggle. Most foreign powers want to see unity before giving support but the opposition

Infighting

United they'll stand?

Since the uprising began in March last year, Syria's opposition has been plagued by divisions and infighting. In addition to the SNC, several other opposition groups are known to be making similar plans for a provisional government, including a new alliance headed by veteran opposition figure Haitham Maleh.

The strains within the opposition were also evident on Tuesday when the Paris-based SNC spokeswoman Bassma Kodmani, a founding member of the group, resigned. She said the SNC had veered off course. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

is unable or unwilling to put aside their differences and unite. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



A girl, who fled her home with her family due to fighting between Syrian government troops and rebels, plays with her little sister, as she and her family take refuge at a border crossing Tuesday. MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jordan. 1,200 defectors housed in secret compound

Quoted

"It's good to be here, away from the tension and war, but this is not what I had hoped for."

Khalidoun (no last name given), former Syrian army brigadier, on being unable to join the rebels on the frontlines.

outside the camp near the northern border city of Mafraq but can get special police permits to visit.

The facility is a sign of Jordan's growing role as a quiet supporter of Syria's opposition. But at the same time, Jordan wants to avoid aggravating tensions with its more powerful northern neighbour, fearing that President Bashar Assad may remain in power.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cyprus

7 Syrians aboard sunk boat dead: UN

The UN refugee agency says seven Syrians who were aboard a fishing boat that sank off the north coast of Cyprus late last week have died.

Agency spokeswoman Melissa Fleming says four men, one woman, and two children died. She says there also were two survivors who were later arrested on smuggling charges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Transitional government

U.S. gets flak for saying too soon

The head of the main Syrian opposition group seeking to oust President Bashar Assad criticized U.S. officials Tuesday for saying it was premature to speak about a transitional Syrian government.

The leader of the Syrian National Council called on the U.S. and other allies to take action instead of placing blame on the opposition.

"Yes there are differences within the Syrian opposition ... but as long as we are agreed on a common vision, these differences can be overcome," Abdelbasset Sieda said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Police quickly recover stolen vial containing blood of late pope

John Paul II. Relic taken from a priest aboard a train but found soon after in a stand of reeds

A trio of thieves aboard a train stole a priest's backpack containing a vial of the late Pope John Paul II's blood on Tuesday, but police recovered the relic a few hours later, authorities said.

The relic was found in a stand of reeds and grass near the railway station in the seaside town of Marina di Cerveteri, where the thieves had gotten off the train, said state railways police official Domenico Ponziani.

Police said the priest began his journey aboard the train in Rome and was heading to a sanctuary north of the capital where the relic was supposed to be put on display for admirers of the Polish pontiff.



This undated photo shows a relic with a vial containing the late Pope John Paul II's blood. Italian railways police say they foiled the theft of the vial aboard a train on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ITALIAN POLICE

who died in 2005.

When the priest got off the train at Civitavecchia, a port city and rail hub, he realized his backpack was missing. He told police that a man who was travelling aboard the train with two

others had distracted him by asking directions, before the trio got off the train a few stops before his, according to Ponziani.

After a few hours of searching, police found the relic, without the backpack,

St. John Paul?

The Vatican has put the Polish-born pontiff on the road to possible sainthood. Last year, his successor, Benedict XVI, beatified John Paul in a ceremony to mark the last major step before sainthood.

apparently tossed among the reeds, Ponziani said.

The blood was contained in a tiny glass vial inserted into a reliquary in the form of an open book with gilded pages.

Police were searching for the thieves and said it wasn't clear if they had realized what the vial contained and tossed it away, or had planned on coming back later to retrieve the relic from the station's wayside.

John Paul's relics have gone on display in several parts of the world.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Marriage on the rocks

In this family handout photo taken on Aug. 11, Bob Ewing, 32, left, and Antonie Hodge, 30, both of Arlington, Va., pose at Seneca Rocks in West Virginia. The couple made the 900-foot climb in formal wedding attire. JOHN EWING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/HANDOUT

War of 1812. Fabled clash lost on Canadians says poll for National Defence

There was a war in 1812? Really?

The Harper government has been highlighting a war with our American neighbours 200 years ago, but the relevance of commemorating the event seemed lost on almost all of those who participated in a comprehensive survey for National Defence.

The poll, conducted annually, measures impressions of the Canadian military, its missions, equipment and important events.

Few people who took part in the survey, and in related focus groups, were aware of the anniversary "and even fewer could identify the War of 1812 by name," said the research conducted by Phoenix Strategic Perspectives Inc.

"Typically, no more than one or two participants in each group were aware that this year is the bicentennial commemoration of the War of 1812, and these people tended to deduce this with simple arithmetic."

"From the year, 1812, they made the logical leap to the War of 1812. Most focus group participants had no prior awareness of this anniversary."

That may be bad news for the Harper government, which

Quoted

"I'm hopeful this effort, and these honours will not be overlooked."

Defence Minister Peter MacKay said the series of celebrations are meant to raise awareness and appreciation for history

has invested as much as \$28 million in historical re-enactments, television commercials, museum exhibits, a \$60 commemorative coin, and even a mobile app for smartphones.

The telephone poll of 1,520 people was conducted in February and March this year, while the focus groups were conducted in January and February.

The report revealed that even in areas where the war was fought — specifically Ontario's Niagara Region — awareness remained foggy.

"In St. Catharines, which is geographically close to where some significant events of the War of 1812 took place, awareness of the 200th anniversary was higher, but still uneven and not widespread," said the document, released Tuesday by the federal government.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Student protests. Police arrest 10 as disruptions continue at university

Confrontations between students and police have erupted for a second consecutive day following the reopening of Quebec's universities.

Striking students at the Université de Montréal have been attempting to force the cancellation of certain classes to protest back-to-school legislation passed this spring.

As they did on Monday, students clashed with the university's security guards and Montreal police as they reportedly sought to disrupt a film class.

Montreal police said they had charged 10 people so far,

though the operation was still ongoing Tuesday afternoon.

The student protesters ended up disrupting a psychology class, having mistaken it for the film class they were looking for.

Protesters said they were only disrupting classes in departments where student associations had voted to continue striking over the Liberal government's tuition hike.

About five per cent of the university's students — less than 3,000 of its more than 60,000 students — are still on strike.

Can you hear me now?

Feds want no bars behind bars

Criminals who run their operations from behind bars using mobile devices could soon be left searching for cell service.

The federal government is asking companies how to stop prisoners from making calls on smuggled cellular and smartphones, tablets and other wireless devices.

Such devices are banned in jails — but evidently that hasn't stopped prisoners from getting hold of them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

63 years of service

Flight attendant lands world record

A flight attendant is landing in the Guinness Book of World Records after his 63 years of moving about the cabin ended in his home state of Hawaii.

Eighty-three-year-old Ron Akana finished his career as the longest-serving flight attendant for any U.S. carrier over the weekend on a United Airlines flight from Denver to Kauai.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

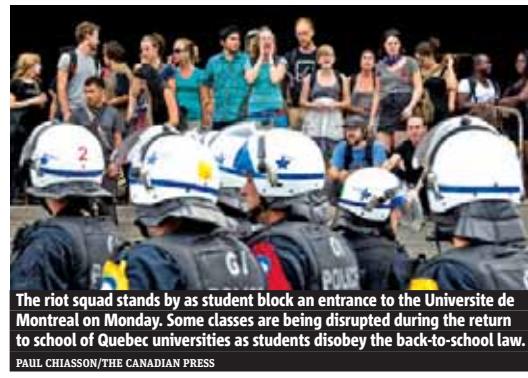
Whale watch

Seagulls in danger for preying on marine mammals

Saving the whales is something Argentines take so seriously that authorities are planning to shoot seagulls that have developed a habit of attacking the huge marine mammals.

Environmentalists say the plan is misguided. They say humans are the real problem, creating so much garbage that the gull population has exploded, endangering the whales.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The riot squad stands by as student block an entrance to the Université de Montréal on Monday. Some classes are being disrupted during the return to school of Quebec universities as students disobey the back-to-school law.

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Deadly bacteria

Tough search for source of outbreak

Public-health investigators trying to find the source of Quebec City's legionnaires' outbreak have a tough job on their hands, experts say.

The search to pinpoint how a total of 128 people, as of Tuesday, have become sick — with eight deaths — is being likened to looking for a needle in a haystack.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Samsung facing a rethink following Apple patent verdict

'Fast follower.' South Korean tech giant must now figure out how to tackle the challenge of moving from imitation to innovation

A U.S. jury's \$1-billion US verdict against Samsung for what rival Apple claimed was the illegal copying of its iPhone and iPad designs signals a turning point for the South Korean electronics giant known for its prowess in adapting the innovations of others and nimble executing production.

The verdict not only jolted the world of global gadgetry but also likely sparked some soul-searching in Suwon, South Korea, where the family-run Samsung conglomerate is based.

The world's top seller of smartphones finds itself in the post-iPhone reality, where

Strict hierarchy

- Samsung's top-heavy command structure centres on the founding family. At the apex is 70-year-old Lee Kun-hee, who inherited the mantle from his father, Samsung founder Lee Byung-chull, in 1987.
- The strict hierarchy has enabled speedy and bold investment and swift execution. That, plus the ability to build on the innovations of others, has helped Samsung become the world's largest maker of televisions, memory chips, liquid crystal display panels and now smartphones.

the decades-long practice of industry mimicry now can mean a bruising legal challenge.

And so Samsung finds it-

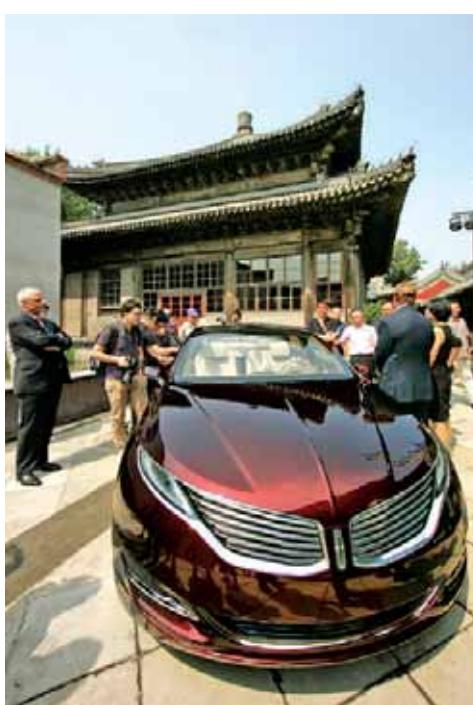
self in a position of having to recreate itself as an innovator, not an imitator. But the switch, experts say, will be much more challenging and time-consuming than the shortcuts Samsung used to take.

Samsung has long been regarded as a "fast follower" — imitating or licensing technologies and then competing by lowering costs, improving quality and adding functions.

When Apple released its cutting-edge iPhone in 2007, Samsung employees were likely too pressed to catch up to scrutinize possible patent encroachments. South Korea's idea of intellectual property is also less strict than that in the U.S., and speedy execution is highly valued at Samsung.

Still, Samsung outsold Apple this year in smartphones by offering more variety, including low-end phones for price-conscious consumers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Lincoln luxury rolls into China

Ford Motor Co. unveils its Lincoln concept car at a converted 600-year-old temple in Beijing on Tuesday. Ford, eager to grab a piece of China's growing luxury market, plans to start selling Lincoln vehicles there in 2014 — the first time that the nearly 100-year-old brand will be available in China. The Lincolns sold in China will be made in North America, at least initially. FORD MOTOR CO./THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Online security

Java susceptible to hacking: Experts

Computer security experts are warning about a new vulnerability involving the ubiquitous Java plug-in, which allows programs to be run inside a web browser. Oracle, the creator of Java, has long been criticized for allowing security exploits in its software to go unchecked. The latest vulnerability, which has been circulating since last week, could allow hackers to gain access to a user's computer with a so-called "drive-by download."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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12,009.9 (-38.92)

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\$96.33 US (+86¢)

GOLD
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Natural gas: \$2.61 US (-4¢)
Dow Jones: 13,102.99 (-21.68)

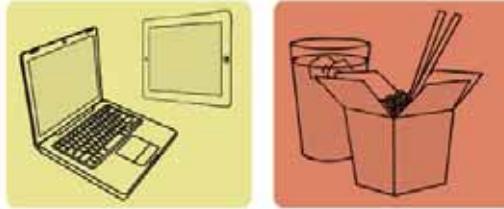


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WHOSE IDEA WAS IT TO GIVE SMARTPHONES TO STUPID PEOPLE?



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/voices/
just-saying

It happened overnight. One day, people went about their business, sharp and alert, and then, the very next day, the streets and roads were filled with slack-jawed zombies peering into little screens, tapping compulsively on little keypads, oblivious to anyone and anything around them.

Smartphones have almost instantly turned us all, well, many of us anyway, into stupid people.

People who drive into each other at high speeds because they're too busy tapping LOL into their smartphones.

People who try to order lunch in a busy lineup at the same time agreeing with their girlfriend (who is somewhere else) that all men are, like, total potting soil.

People who block street corners and doorways and elevators, breathing through their mouths, inert.

People who drop their smartphones into the urinal while updating their fantasy football roster.

People who go out for dinner and text each other across the table.

I could go on. In fact, I will. There's even a Facebook page called Smart Phones, Stupid People. And they're not kidding.

There's a story about a stupid man who was so busy downloading an app on his smartphone while he was driving that it wasn't until he got home, parked his van in the driveway and police came to his door that he learned he had run over a 300-pound man.

There's a photo of a truck with a message on the back: "Don't text and drive: Yours may be on the next shipment: Batesville Casket Company."

There's a story about how people with smartphones have become such a danger to themselves and others in Fort Lee, N.J., that the local police chief has officers ticketing people on the spot. He had to do something: There have already been 23 text-related pedestrian accidents since January.

And, finally, there's the story of the Stupidest Person Ever. A college student (named Chance, LOL) from Texas was driving when he texted to his friend: "I need to quit texting, because I could die in a car accident." He then immediately drove off a bridge and over a cliff. He suffered a broken neck, a crushed face, a fractured skull, and brain trauma. How could that be? He has no brain.

Believe it or not, distracted smartphone-related driving led to 3,000 road fatalities in the U.S. last year. If this keeps up, an entire generation will go over the cliff along with Chance.

At that point, the meek and a few others who can't afford a smartphone shall inherit the Earth.

At last, IMHO.



Texting while driving is nothing to LOL about. YOUTUBE SCREEN GRAB

Arrive alive: Think and drive

There's a story about a stupid man who was so busy downloading an app on his smartphone while he was driving that it wasn't until he got home, parked his van in the driveway and police came to his door that he learned he had run over a 300-pound man.

Game of cat and mouse continues



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mouse play

British PM's cat snatches a mouse

Larry, the Downing Street cat, is seen on patrol.

The tabby recruited by British Prime Minister David Cameron to ward off mice at his official residence, 10 Downing Street, has recorded his first kill in months. A Downing Street spokeswoman says a staff member found the five-year-old Chief Mouser Tuesday sitting outside the famous black door with a dead mouse. Larry, a former stray, has been known to take a relaxed approach to his duties.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



David Cameron

Heathrow expansion

Kill made at same time as MP's mouse call

The timing couldn't have been better: On Tuesday, a member of Cameron's Conservative Party was questioning whether the leader was "man or mouse" over his opposition to the expansion of Heathrow Airport.

Tim Yeo is pressing Cameron to change his mind. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Twitter

@NovaMoto:

So Sackville Dr from the rotary to the Kent is now a 30kph zone most of the day? Good luck enforcing that. #halifax

@Gall3cat:

#Halifax water employees need to not block bus stops with there trucks. I shouldn't have to ask you to move. Then you don't move. #rude.

@SuitSwag:

Anyone know of a good #watch

store in #Halifax with reasonable prices and nice watches?

@mattdagley:

I'm going to the #Halifax Apple Store today to look at all the great gear I'd love to have but can't afford.

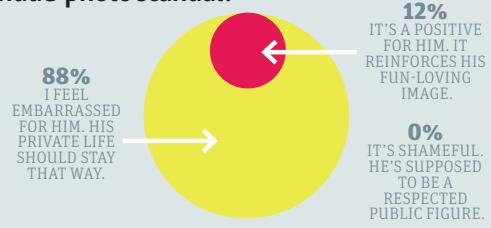
@jennaleah_clark:

what a day to be in #halifax ... so rainy and gross!! lol! Oh well, #shopping and #lunch with friends it is :)



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What's your opinion on the Prince Harry nude-photo scandal?



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Movie reviews

Lawless

Director: John Hillcoat

Stars: Tom Hardy, Shia LaBeouf, Guy Pearce

• • • •

Lawless sees director John Hillcoat once more teaming up with cult gothic rock god Nick Cave for a violent, meandering, macho shoot 'em up. The results are less weighty than their previous Cave penned collaborations, *Ghosts of the Civil Dead* and *The Proposition*, in fact, despite the ample bloodshed and agony on screen, Lawless is actually kind of a — gasp — good time.

Not words you'd expect from the man who gave us the bleaker than death adaptation of *The Road*, but the film, which sees Shia LaBeouf as a gentle younger sibling to a fierce brood of prohibition era moonshiners is painted with such broad, arch strokes and is filled with such buoyant roots music that only the hardest heart wouldn't smile. There's equally fantastic performances from LaBeouf, Hillcoat regular Guy Pierce (in pure *Snidely Whiplash* ultra-villain role) and especially, the imposing Tom Hardy, re-channelling his Bane character as a hardened, but gallant, thug with a moral code. Mixing action and even western tropes with fine, sepia soaked period detail and detours of visual and aural poetry, Lawless is an immersive joy and one of the finest films of the year.

CHRIS ALEXANDER

Bayers Lake
Wed-Thu 1:10-3:40/7:20-9:50

Park Lane

Wed-Thu 3:35-6:35-9:15
Lower Sackville

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Dartmouth Crossing

Wed-Thu 2:20-6:45-9:15

Truro

Wed-Thu 6:45-9:05

Bridgewater

Wed-Thu 6:40-9:20



A young girl starts displaying disturbing behaviour after purchasing an old artifact in *The Possession*. HANDOUT

Scary? Yes, but don't call it a horror movie, actor says

The Possession.

New film more of a character piece, says Jeffrey Dean Morgan

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Jeffrey Dean Morgan is all for you getting scared watching *The Possession* — about a young girl who starts displaying disturbing behaviour after her family purchases an old Hebrew artifact — but it's not a horror movie, he swears.

Morgan, who plays the girl's beleaguered dad in the film, makes his pitch for *The Possession* as a character piece and offers some insight on why audiences can't get enough of exorcisms.

What was the initial draw for you for this project?

Everybody wants to label this as a horror movie, and I never considered it to be a horror movie going in.

It actually had a story to it, and I'm so used to horror movies this day and age being found footage, shaky camera, just a f-ing visual onslaught of gore.

This movie actually had a story and it reminded me of the movies that I thought were scary — *The Exorcist* and *Rosemary's Baby* and *The Omen* — where you could become invested in those characters. This had that. (I play) a recently divorced guy trying to be a good father and sort of failing miserably with two teenage daughters.

So you've got a family that's kind of been troubled at the heart of this. And then of

course there's demons inside people, so there's that (laughs).

But it's really, I think, a character piece. I think it really gives the opportunity for us to act and for (director) Ole (Bormeier) to direct, and that helps a great deal when doing this kind of thing.

Why do you think demonic possession continues to be such a popular topic for horror films?

Yeah, I mean people go see these movies, for sure. I don't know, I didn't ever really put it together but it's always the kid who gets possessed, and the parents are trying to, I guess, save the day — with a priest or a rabbi, I guess, in our case.

But I just think a child getting possessed is... what is more horrific for a parent than that? And I think that's some-

thing that maybe people can somehow relate to. And what 11-year-old girl isn't possessed?

Plus so many of them purport to be based on true stories.

There is that element of it could happen, maybe. I'm a skeptic when it comes to all that paranormal activity and craziness and possession, but in doing the little bit of research that I did for this movie, there's some scary s— out there. You can see it on the Internet, actual exorcisms and stuff that have happened.

I've got to wonder how that is there. I mean, it doesn't look staged to me, and it's super-scary. But I think there's that element that this could be a real thing. And people argue that it absolutely is a real thing, and I think because of that it's an interesting subject matter.

2
SCENE

On the web



The Walking Dead actor Scott Wilson arrested in Georgia on drunken driving charge

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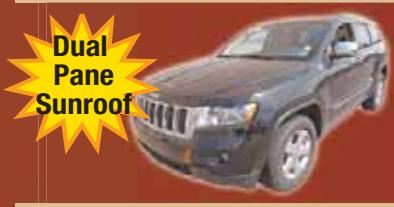
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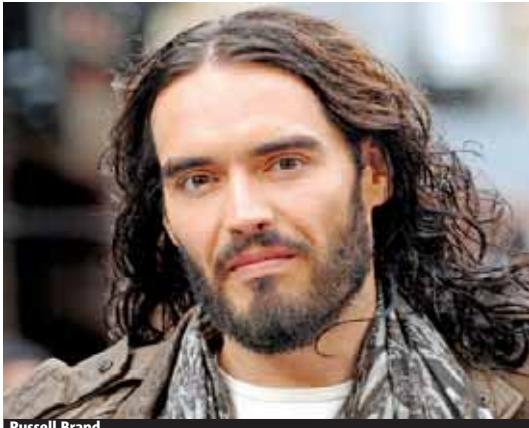


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Russell Brand

Brand linked to fellow Brit Ginger Spice

A month after finalizing his divorce from American pop star Katy Perry, British comedian Russell Brand is apparently sticking closer to home. Brand is reportedly dating Spice Girls member Geri Halliwell, according to the Sun. Brand and Halliwell, who hung out during the Olympics closing ceremony earlier this month, were recently spotted out and about at Hampton Court Palace along with Halliwell's 6-year-old

daughter. Halliwell, for her part, admits there's a new special someone in her life — but she's leaving it at that. "I'm not going into details," she tells Hello! Magazine. "Right now there's nothing serious."

Twitter



@Rosie

Oh my god I lost 10 lbs already eating plant based food !!!



@1cappleate

I want my daughter to live a normal life I want her to feel free to be who she wants, so paparazzi stop taking pics of her! Enough !



@MissKellyO

Looking forward to date night tonight we have decided on sushi!



@lindsaylohan

All of this negative press is BS.... Whenever I'm doing great, people fabricate lies. It's such a shame. I'm just sayin' xo



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Amanda Bynes

Bynes' hit-and-run cases under police scrutiny

Amanda Bynes' most recent hit-and-run incident has led investi-

gators to renew their interest in a similar accident involving the actress from earlier this year, according to Hollyscoop.

"Both of Amanda Bynes' hit and run cases are under review right now. I cannot say that we re-opened the original hit-and-run case because it was never closed," a spokesman for the L.A. City Attorney's office tells the website.

"We are reviewing both cases with the LAPD and CHP, so both incidents are under investigation at this time. She has not been charged with anything as of yet. No dates have been set for arraignment or anything else with Amanda at this time."

Both incidents — one in April and one in August — involve Bynes reportedly rear-ending another driver and then fleeing the scene.

Royal video shopped online: Report

Prince Harry's headaches over his naked romp in Las Vegas earlier this month may not be over, as Radar Online is reporting that a video of the incident could end up online shortly — for the right price.

"There is video of Harry partying naked with women in the Las Vegas hotel room. There have been some very quiet inquiries to see how much the video is worth," a source says. "The video has not been shopped around yet. With all the attention the photos got, the people with the video know it could be worth a fortune."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Lohan a suspect in theft — yes, again

THE WORD
Monica Weymouth
scene@metronews.ca

Although her name was initially cleared, Lindsay Lohan is now officially a suspect in the theft of \$100,000 worth of valuables from a Hollywood home.

Last week, police were called to the home of Sam Magid after Lohan, her assistant and others spent the night partying.

Here's where things get messy, even in Lohan's world: Magid claimed that insanely expensive sunglasses and watches were missing, but later recanted his story. Then, on Monday, two of Lohan's

friends — including Andrew Knight, son of hip-hop mogul Suge Knight — stopped by Magid's house with some of the stolen items that they claim Lohan gave them, reports TMZ.

What's Lohan have to say for herself? Quite a bit.

According to TMZ, she claims that she was in an Ambien fog that night but does remember hiding jewelry, watches and Tiffany silverware out of fear they would be stolen by other guests. As for anything that actually did walk off, she blames Knight.

Lindsay's father, Michael Lohan, is calling the accusation against his daughter an unfair "witch hunt" — presumably because he forgot she stole a necklace from a high-end jewelry store last year, resulting in a months-long, soul-crushing courtroom circus. Must be nice, Michael. Must be nice.



What better way to enjoy some good rum, wine and food than with turquoise waters as a backdrop. SUPPLIED



The Cliff Restaurant overlooks a private cove. SUPPLIED

3
TIE

Enjoying rum, fish always better in the Caribbean

Barbados. Ever-popular tropical destination offers local, exotic and exciting food and drink

GIZELLE LAU
life@metronews.ca

As far as Caribbean islands go, there are few that are as robust in their food, wine and rum offerings than Barbados. From the weekly fish fry and rum shacks strewn along the roads across the island to truly fine rum and upscale restaurants, there's much to be enjoyed on the scenic island of Barbados.

For those looking to try the

island's traditional fare, head to the St Lawrence Gap's many restaurants where you can get a taste of dishes like cou cou with flying fish, the national dish of Barbados, officially. Unofficially, there's also favourites like macaroni pie, Bajan pepper sauce and Toronto chef Mark McEwan's pick: "fish sandwiches" or fish cutters, best experienced at Cuz's Fish Stand on Pebbles Beach near Bridgetown.

Then, there's the famous fish fry. At Oistins on Friday and Saturday nights, you can get the day's catch fried or grilled, with a beer in hand and island music in the air.

"Instead of going to a museum like you would in Europe, you've got to get to Oistins for

a fish fry when you're in Barbados," says celeb chef Marcus Samuelsson, who, like McEwan can be seen on the island during the Barbados Food & Wine and Rum Festival.

Rum aficionados will not want to miss a visit to Mount Gay Distilleries, home to the world's oldest rum brand (since 1703), Mount Gay Rum.

For a more artisanal rum, visit St. Nicholas Abbey, home to an original 17th century plantation home and distillery where they sell an eight-year and 12-year old rum. Better yet, when you bring the bottle back to the distillery, they'll fill it up for you half price.

If you're vying for one final meal on the island, head to The Cliff Restaurant. Over-

looking a private cove, watch the sun go down on the beachside patio with cocktail in hand while the wave comes in under the glow of romantic lit torches, setting the stage for one of the finest upscale wining and dining experiences on the island.

Want to spend time rubbing elbows with celebrity chefs while noshing on the best food, wine and rum Barbados has to offer?

Then look no further than the Barbados Food & Wine and Rum Festival.

This year, the festival will take place November 16 to 19, 2012 with celebrity chef events, cooking demonstrations, tastings and tours of rum distilleries, just to name a few.

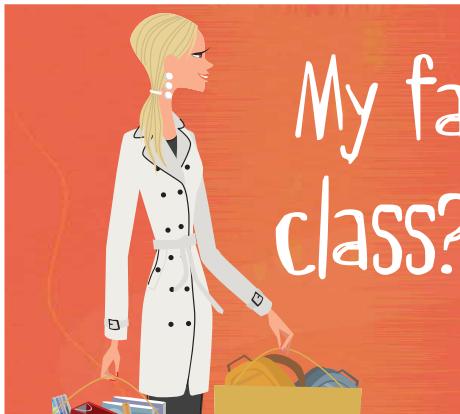
If you go...

- Fly.** Air Canada and WestJet both offer direct flights from major Canadian cities to Bridgetown, Barbados
- Stay.** Elegant Hotels in Barbados offers five distinct hotels including the Colony Club, Crystal Cove, Tamarind, Turtle Beach and The House resorts, each offering unique style of accommodation suited for solo travellers, couples or families.
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Virginia craft brewers raise their glasses to burgeoning beer market

Drinkers kept hopping. Over the last five years, the state's small beermakers have forged quite the attraction for thirsty tourists

From Virginia's industrial outskirts of Richmond to the pastoral landscapes of the Blue Ridge Mountains and beyond, an army of artisans are turning their love of beer into business.

Armed with an arsenal of barley and hops, these craft brewers are looking to cash in on a growing interest in all things local, including alcoholic libations.

And recent changes to state law are helping craft brewers grow their business.

With about 40 craft breweries in the state, Virginia pales

in comparison to U.S. states like California, Oregon and Colorado. But craft brewers in Virginia hope to build on the success of the state's wine industry, which has seen steady growth in recent years and continues to attract tourists seeking to enjoy the concoctions made by Virginia craftsmen.

For the first time, the state has designated August as Virginia Craft Beer month, highlighted by events at breweries, including a statewide festival and competition Saturday at the award-winning Devils Backbone Brewing Company in Nelson County.

"It's exciting right now. ... There's been a real movement in the last five years," said Mike Killelea, chairman of the Virginia Craft Brewers Guild and a brewer at Richmond's Legend Brewing Co. for more than five years.

"Within about two years, you're probably going to have a brewery within a short drive of pretty much every citizen in the commonwealth. ... My hope

Quick facts

- **\$9 billion.** The size of the craft brewery industry in the United States.
- **104,000.** The number of jobs craft brewers provide.
- **11.5 million.** The number of barrels of beer craft brewers sold in 2011.

is that people become more aware of the great beer scene here."

"Craft brewers have become known for their innovation, so they take old world beer styles and have pushed the envelope — packing more flavour ... and doing modern twists on classic styles that often now have created completely different new world styles of beer," said Julia Herz, the craft beer program director at the Brewers Association.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Virginia artisans are turning their love of beer into a booming business. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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New heights of snacking sophistication: Grilled Pita

Seven is the magic number for making this Grilled Mushroom Pita Pizza. That's the number of ingredients you'll need to take snacking to a new level of sophistication. Pita bread with mushrooms make these individual grilled pizzas a delightful lunch or snack.

If the mushrooms are too long for the pitas, thickly slice the mushrooms on a cutting board and place on top the spinach. Thinner pitas will crisp better than thick ones.

1. In a small bowl, whisk oil and garlic together; lightly brush mushrooms on both sides with garlic oil.

2. Barbecue mushrooms on high heat for 2 to 3 minutes per side or until mushrooms are lightly softened.

3. Meanwhile, place pitas on barbecue over high heat and cook for 2 minutes on one side or until warmed through. Remove to a tray or cutting board and spread softer side with tomato



This recipe serves four. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

pesto. Top with spinach and then warm mushrooms, stem side up.

4. Return to barbecue and cook for additional 2 to 3 minutes or until slightly crisp. Garnish with Parmesan. Cut in halves or quarters and serve immediately. Season with pepper.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/MUSHROOMS.CA

Ingredients

- 45 ml (3 tbsp) olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed into olive oil
- 4 large fresh portobello mushroom caps
- 4 whole-wheat pita breads (15 to 18 cm/6 to 7 inches)
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) sun-dried
- tomato pesto
- 1 l (4 cups) baby spinach or arugula leaves (60 g/2 oz)
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) shaved Parmesan or Romano cheese
- Freshly ground pepper, to taste

Pin down your dream job

An interest in Pinterest. How to use this ultra-connected corkboard to land a job

ISHANI
NATH
TalentEgg.ca

Sure, Pinterest is great for finding recipes, wedding dresses and learning how to make your own deodorant, but this visually driven social media can also help you find a job.

In an age where professional Facebook pages and



You're one click away from an ultra-creative résumé ISTOCK

Social CV

Just like with your real résumé, prioritize your posts.

- Put the most important info at the top and try and organize your board in a logical fashion.

- Marketing expert Christopher Penn says he made an example for how job-seekers can put together a Pinterest résumé, linking to other social media sites and maintaining a distinctive personal brand.

Twesumes are becoming regular additions to job applications, having a professional Pinterest account can help you stand out from the rest of the online crowd.

For those who aren't familiar with the site, Pinterest allows its users to set up an online page and post original and shared content in the form of photos, much like you would pin something to a cork-board. The photo layout of the site makes it easy for readers to get a lot of information in a small amount of space.

Pinterest can be a great way to showcase your skills to potential employers, especially if you're in creative or marketing fields.

Create a résumé and portfolio on Pinterest

According to Pinterest's Pin Etiquette, boards are intended to be authentic reflections of each user. And with more than six million users, including major companies, you're showcasing who you are to a big audience.

Creating a professional Pinterest board for your re-

sumé and work portfolio can showcase your skills, talent and creativity to potential employers.

Marketing expert Christopher Penn says, "The key to figuring out how to present effectively on Pinterest is to present visually even for non-visual stuff."

Instead of just telling people you're gutsy, pin a photo of you sky diving to your Pinterest résumé board with the caption "Skydiving? Risk taker." That's exactly what Harvard business school graduate Jeanne Hwang did. Jeanne used her board to showcase her previous jobs, her interests and even a picture of her puppy.

While you can, and should, get creative with what goes on your board, play it straight with your headlines. Titling your boards 'Résumé' or 'Portfolio' makes it clear what the purpose of your board is and makes it easier to find if employers are searching around.

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MacKinnon in position for world junior invite

Hockey. Team's head scout had a good look at Mooseheads MacKinnon, Fusale and Drouin in Czech Republic



MATTHEW
WUEST

matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Nathan MacKinnon has put himself in position to be invited to Canada's final world junior selection camp in December, according to the team's head scout, Kevin Prendergast. But two other Halifax Mooseheads, Zach Fusale and Jonathan Drouin, are described as "long shots."

Prendergast got a good look at all three after watching them lead Canada's under-18 team to gold at the Ivan Hlinka memorial tournament in Slovakia and the Czech Republic earlier this month.

MacKinnon, a soon-to-be 17-year-old centre who wasn't invited to last year's world junior camp, led the Ivan Hlinka in scoring with five goals and six assists in five games.

"He's bigger, he's stronger, and that's the big thing."

Quoted

"A lot is going to depend on what happens with the NHL (and a potential lockout). If we end up losing seven to nine guys (to the NHL), it opens the door for 30 kids to come into the picture" Kevin Prendergast

Prendergast said. "The skating always stood out — that's the first thing you notice about him — but I think his overall awareness is much better. At this point, he's in a great position to be a part of the camp in December."

MacKinnon, who is ranked No. 1 for the 2013 NHL draft by Red Line Report, scored a hat trick in a 4-0 win over Finland in the final.

"The cream comes to the top and in the gold-medal game, he was our best player," Prendergast said.

Fusale, a 17-year-old goaltender who shared Mooseheads co-MVP honours with MacKinnon last season, started four of five games for Canada and won them all while posting a 23-save shutout in the gold-medal game. Prendergast raved about Fusale's fundamentals, maturity and ability to handle pressure.

"Of all the kids I've met in hockey over the past 20 years, he's one of the kids who stands out because he's got a great personality for being a goaltender," Prendergast said.

But it won't necessarily translate into an invitation in December, even though Prendergast describes the battle for goaltending jobs "wide open."

"I'm not ruling him out by any means, but there's a good crop of goaltenders that's one or two years older than him."

Drouin, a 17-year-old left-winger, had five assists in five games.

"One thing he's got is great hockey sense," Prendergast said. "You can't teach that. He's got great patience with the puck and he knows what to do with it when he's got it. At this point, to play in a 20-year-old tournament, he's got to get a lot stronger."



Mooseheads forward Nathan MacKinnon during the 2011-12 season. METRO FILE

Mobile sports



Sprinter Oscar Pistorius captured imaginations around the world as the first double-amputee to compete in the Olympic Games. But on the eve of the Paralympics, the South African sprinter was downplaying his chances of dominating in London. Scan the code for the story.

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Cutting Lacroix-Courville 'best for him': Russell



Jonathan Lacroix-Courville at Mooseheads training camp earlier this month. JEFF HARPER/METRO

The Halifax Mooseheads cut rookie left-winger Jonathan Lacroix-Courville on Tuesday, saying they didn't want to hinder his development with a job as the team's 14th forward.

The 16-year-old winger, selected in the third round (44th overall) in June's QMJHL draft, had one assist in four QMJHL pre-season games and impressed with his energy and physical play.

"We've got a lot of depth here, a lot of good hockey players who would be playing ahead of him," said Mooseheads general manager Cam Russell. "For his development, it was best for him to go back to midget and be the best player on his team."

By the numbers

- There are 26 players left on the Mooseheads' pre-season roster: 14 forwards, nine defencemen and three goaltenders.
- More cuts could come as early as Wednesday.
- The team is taking a five-day break Thursday through next Monday.

In 42 games at the Quebec midget AAA level last season, Lacroix-Courville had 17 goals and 11 assists for 28 points in 42 games for the Gatineau

L'Intrepide.

Russell said he was "extremely happy" with how Lacroix-Courville played in camp and said he'll make a big impact in the QMJHL if he gets stronger.

"I see him on the team for sure next season (in 2013-14)," Russell said. "He's an exciting player. He plays a grinding, physical style and he scores goals. He'll be a big part of the Mooseheads in the future."

Lacroix-Courville's departure means winger Liam Alcalde has earned a spot on the Mooseheads' roster. The 17-year-old was selected in the sixth round, 106th overall, in June's QMJHL draft.

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO

Canadians facing tough field at 2012 Paralympic Games

London Summer Games. More support than ever for local athletes, but more countries taking part with better-funded athletes competing

There has never been a Canadian Paralympic team as well funded and supported as the

one currently in London for the 2012 Games.

The bounce the country's Paralympians experienced following the 2010 Vancouver Olympics came at a crucial time.

More countries are competing in Paralympics and there's more money behind that competition. It's harder for Canadians to win Paralympic medals than it was just eight years ago.

Canada's objective in Lon-

don is to finish top-eight in the overall gold-medal count. After finishing tied for third in 2000 and third in 2004, Canada slipped to seventh in 2008 with 19 gold.

"Our athletes all know they cannot just repeat their past performance that put them on the podium," chef de mission Gaetan Tardif said Tuesday in London. "It's likely if they have the same time as the last Games, it will not be good enough."

"The competition is truly getting fierce at the Paralympic level. A number of nations have joined the movement and increased participation and funding in the movement."

China is a big mover in Paralympic sport since hosting the Games in 2008. Tardif points out that country has a pool of 40 million people with a disability from which to draw. That's more than Canada's total population of 35 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Games facts

- Canada has 145 athletes competing in 15 of the 20 Paralympic sports.
- With the help of 95 support staff, Gaetan Tardif, Canada's chef de mission for the Paralympic Games, hopes that Canada can produce between 40 and 50 medals before the Games close on Sept. 9.

Blue Jays

Jays lose big bat Bautista for 2012

Before the Blue Jays lost 2-1 to the Yankees on Tuesday, the team announced Jose Bautista will have season-ending surgery to stabilize a tendon in his left wrist.

Bautista said the recovery period is three to four months and he would be ready to play long before the start of spring training next year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minor-leaguer Stroman gets 50-game ban

Toronto Blue Jays prospect Marcus Stroman, the No. 22 pick in this year's amateur draft, was suspended 50 games Tuesday for violating baseball's minor-league drug program.

Stroman, a right-hander with Double-A New Hampshire, tested positive for Methylhexaneamine, a banned stimulant. Stroman, who played college ball at Duke, received a \$1.8-million US bonus when he signed with Toronto last month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

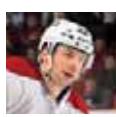


Djokovic breezes through first round at U.S. Open

Novak Djokovic returns a shot against Paolo Lorenzi during their first-round match Tuesday at the U.S. Open in New York. Djokovic began the defence of his U.S. Open title by overwhelming 60th-ranked Lorenzi of Italy 6-1, 6-0, 6-1. Elsewhere in men's competition, Milos Raonic of Thornhill, Ont., overcame 55 unforced errors including 15 double faults to defeat Santiago Giraldo of Colombia 6-3, 4-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4. In women's singles, 19-year-old Sloane Stephens, who is ranked 44th, eliminated 2010 French Open champion Francesca Schiavone 6-3, 6-4 and eighth-seeded Caroline Wozniacki, slowed by a right knee injury, fell 6-2, 6-2 to 96th-ranked Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania. CAMERON SPENCER/GETTY IMAGES

NHL makes counter-proposal to the players

Quoted



"I'm encouraged that we're talking, to be honest with you."

NHL player representative Mathieu Darche on Tuesday's proposal from the league. Darche added that it's obvious the NHL took time to come up with the new proposal.

specific elements of the new deal. NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr gave an initial response to the league on Tuesday afternoon and requested that the parties gather again Wednesday after the union has had more time to examine it.

"It's a proposal that we intend to respond to," said Fehr. "I'll leave it at that."

The current collective agreement expires Sept. 15 and the NHL has said it will lock the players out if a new deal isn't reached by then.

The owners and players have had trouble getting on the same page. Bettman indicated the league's new offer was a direct counter-proposal to the offer the players put forth two weeks ago and hopes it helps spark negotiations.

"I'm trying to get us on to the same page, I'm trying to get us on to a common language," he said.

The proposal was unveiled in an intimate setting, with only Fehr and top assistant Steve Fehr in the room for the players and Bettman and dep-

uty commissioner Bill Daly for the league. The morning meeting lasted about 45 minutes and concluded with Donald Fehr saying he wanted to apprise his constituents of the situation.

About four hours later, the Fehr brothers returned to the NHL's head office along with players Mathieu Darche, Ron Hainsey and Douglas Murray.

The afternoon session was over in about 30 minutes, with both sides agreeing to meet again on Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Four have the floor

The sides have turned to smaller groups in an effort to bridge a gap in negotiations.

- Bettman, Daly and the Fehr brothers also sat down last week, but they've been unable to agree on the general framework that will shape the next agreement so far.

Want a minivan alternative?



ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

5 DRIVE

Engine

A 2.4-litre four-cylinder produces 174 horsepower and 171 pound-feet of torque. It's connected to a six-speed manual transmission or optional six-speed automatic. Shifting your own gears results in optimum fuel economy: 10.1 l/100 km in the city and 6.7 on the highway, which is slightly better than 10.6/6.9 rating with the automatic.

Trim options

The \$21,500 (including destination charges) base LS doesn't stray too far from basic, but spending an extra \$2,300 for the 1LT trim adds air conditioning, cruise control, tilt/telescoping steering, floor console and upgraded seat coverings.

Versatility

The basic platform is shared with Chevrolet's Cruze sedan, although the Orlando is somewhat longer and wider overall and features an extra 7.5 centimetres between the front and rear wheels.

That added distance is the key to the Orlando's versatility. Three rows of seats come standard on all trim levels, including a 60:40 split-folding

three-place second row and a 50:50 split-folding two-passenger third row that's more kid friendly than anything. Both second- and third-rows can be folded completely flat, creating a cavernous cargo hold that can swallow nearly any big-box-store item you would care to haul home.

For smaller items there are plenty of handy storage spots to be found throughout the cabin.

2012 Chevrolet Orlando

• **Type:** Four-door, seven-passenger, front-wheel-drive compact wagon.

• **Engine (hp):** 2.4-litre DOHC I4 (174).

• **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 10.1/6.7 (MT).

• **Base Price (incl. destination):** \$21,500.

On the Web



Scan code for more car reviews and news

Review

It carries plenty, without costing plenty

MALCOLM GUNN

Wheelbase Media

Canadians should be grateful that General Motors has brought the Chevrolet Orlando to this country.

That's because, for some reason, Chevy fans and dealers south of the border are going without this practical and affordable wagon that hails from GM's Korean subsidiary. Named for a city in Florida, but won't be available there?

Interesting.

The Orlando (perhaps the Saskatoon or the Halifax might have made better names) slots directly below the five-seat Equinox and well below the full-size Traverse in Chevrolet's tall-wagon hierarchy.

This junior-sized, front-wheel-drive space maker is an ideal minivan alternative. Its

seven-passenger capacity is a match for most vehicles in the people-mover class, albeit in a tighter package for people and goods. But the Orlando actually competes against the Mazda 5, Kia Rondo and Dodge Journey. This trio also offers three-row seating and all but only the Journey can be ordered with optional all-wheel-drive.

The Orlando might have far offshore roots, but from its prominent Chevrolet "bowtie" brand on the grille to its rear liftgate, this wagon is definitely domestically influenced. In particular the side view appears inspired by the bigger Traverse, especially the wide doors and the upsweep of the roof pillar. The character-adding flared-out fenders and full-length roof rails also help make the vehicle appear larger than it actually is.

With its up-front costs within reach of most Canadian families, the Orlando should easily make the active-consideration list. Feeling sorry for our Orlando-less American neighbours comes at no extra charge.



The sharp-looking interior is also comfortable and functional and the 2.5-litre four-cylinder feels just as peppy as its 174-horsepower rating implies, partly due to the six-speed automatic transmission.



With both the second and third rows folded flat, the wide door opening allows for reasonably large items to fit inside.

By comparison



1 **Mazda 5**
Base price: \$23,300



2 **Dodge Journey**
Base price: \$22,500



3 **Kia Rondo**
Base price: \$21,500

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Second Gear.

2008 to 2012
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JUSTIN
PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

Selection, style and capability were arguably the biggest draws to the outgoing generation of the Ford Escape.

With four and six-cylinder power, front or all-wheel drive, generous ground clearance and a large span of options and packages, this Canadian favourite offered a variation that was just right for virtually any shopper.

Key competitors included the Toyota RAV4, Honda CR-V and Nissan Rogue.

Common Issues

Approach your used Escape looking for signs of transmission trouble. Hard shifting, 'flaring' or slipping during gear changes could all be signs of trouble. Ensure the unit shifts between drive and reverse as quickly as you'd expect, too. Be double sure the transmission in the used Escape you're considering operates as expected — and have a mechanical inspection completed regardless.

Your local Ford dealer will be familiar with the Escape's potential transmission trouble and able to quickly diagnose or repair any issues — whether covered by a recall or otherwise.

Also, have the engine checked for oil level, condition and signs of leakage.



TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Engine

 Look for four- and six-cylinder engines, with output as high as 240 horsepower. In 2009, the Escape's powertrain lineup was updated to include newer, more modern engines and transmissions.

What Owners Like

 Performance from the V6 engine, off-road capability with 4-wheel drive, a sporty and comfortable ride and a flexible interior were all rated highly by owners.

What Owners Dislike

 Common complaints include 'gear hunting,' noisy engines, poor performance from the factory stereo system and higher-than-expected levels of road noise.

Verdict

Shoppers set on this generation Escape are advised to seek out a dealer-maintained model with a good portion of remaining factory warranty, opting for extended powertrain warranty coverage if their budget allows.

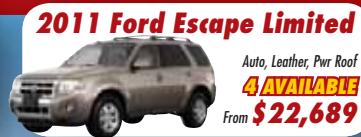
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'08 Toyota Camry LE (Auto, 85k) **\$12,899**

'12 Chevy Orlando 2LT (9900 km) **\$20,989**

'10 Mini Cooper S (SOLD, 33k) **\$22,988**

'08 Hyundai Santa Fe GL (Auto, 81k) **\$13,994**

'10 Honda Civic Sport (Power Roof, 72k) **\$15,679**

'07 Kia Rondo EX (Auto, 90k) **\$8,998**

'10 Mitsubishi Lancer GTS Auto, 17k) **\$18,929**

'08 Honda CRV LX AWD (Auto, 69k) **\$15,529**

'08 Hyundai Santa Fe GLS (Auto, 87k) **\$14,369**

'10 Mazda 3 GS (SOLD, 33k) **\$14,999**

'08 Nissan Altima S (Auto, 57k) **\$13,379**

'08 Chevy Equinox LS (Auto, 74k) **\$11,209**

'08 Toyota Matrix XR (Auto, 100k) **\$9,998**

'07 Subaru Legacy LTD (Auto, 34k) **\$13,967**

'11 Hyundai Elantra (Auto, 18k) **\$14,779**

'11 Kia Soul 4u (Auto, 33k) **\$16,498**

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Mike Goetz
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Last week of summer. A joyous time for parents with school-age kids.

Two reasons to give thanks.

One, it's great to see their good times come crashing down — they had it too good for too long.

Two, it's another poignant reminder that your own school days are mercifully over, and you won't be the one heading out the door next Tuesday with a bad lunch and an over-stuffed backpack.

School isn't all bad, of course. And if you're the type that gets an extra kick from things automotive, then high school was, or will be, a heady time.

An automotive restorer once told me that, almost without fail, a guy would restore and/or buy a particular model of classic car later

in life, based on their first-ever car lust, which usually occurred when they were 12 to 14.

The cool cars they saw then on the road, and envisioned themselves behind the wheel of, will remain the coolest cars ever made, in their opinion.

So just think of the young brains that are getting programmed for life right now, by their first in-the-flesh encounters with something like an Audi R8, Lamborghini Aventador, or McLaren MP4-12C.

High school is also when a lot of kids first learn to drive, and possibly get their own cars. (There was one memorable guy in my Grade 8 class who not only had his licence, but also his own car, which he drove to school, and parked in the same lot as the teachers! Obviously this was an era in which you were actually allowed to fail an elementary grade.)

My parents wouldn't allow me to purchase my own car in high school, on the premise that I had no business owning a car, when all I wanted to do with one is drive around town playing 8-track tapes.

It was a particularly hurtful thing to say because it was 100 per cent accurate.

I guess the most iconic school-related vehicle is the yellow school bus. Progress marches on, but the school bus seems resistant to change.

In that regard, they're much like that Coke-Pepsi line. All sorts of cultural walls have come down, but you still can't get Coke and Pepsi together in the same eating or drinking establishment. It's one or the other folks...

But back to school buses. They haven't changed much because they continue to have a great safety record.

Yes, they look antiquated, but their serious "mass" and serious "yellowness" make them very visible and very energy absorbent. And with the seats so tight together, and with padding on the seat backs, the kids don't get thrown around too much when things get hairy.

Drivers are also highly trained working on familiar routes, and they're usually only on the road in daylight hours.

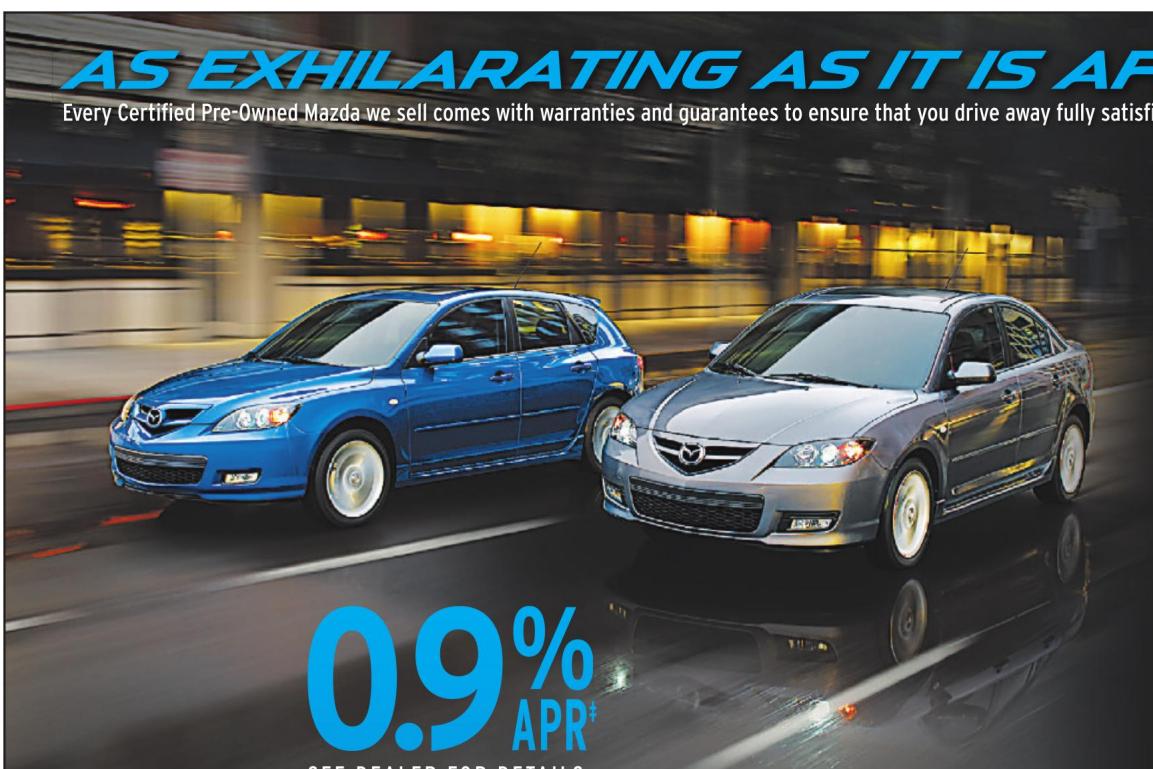
Almost makes you wish you could get back on one, eh?



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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

A lot is at stake at the moment, especially financially, so don't let others rush you into making any sudden decisions. The more they try to convince you that you need to act immediately, the more you should take your time.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You must make an effort to control your emotions. As Mars, planet of anger, moves through your opposite sign you will get upset more easily than usual with people who annoy you. Don't go too far.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

This is a good time to make changes to your work routine but make sure they are changes that favour you and not other people. Colleagues and employers will take advantage of you if you let them.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

This is a great time for getting things done. With Mars on your side, there is precious little you cannot accomplish. But you must be clear about your aims. Set yourself a single goal each and every day.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

If your domestic situation could do with some sort of improvement then now is the time to stop thinking about it and do something practical. Don't just touch up the paintwork, have a complete renovation.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

With Mars, planet of action, moving through the area of your chart that governs travel and social activities, you won't let anyone or anything hold you back from having a good time. You thoroughly deserve it.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

You may be a little worried about your money situation but there is really no need. Over the next few weeks you will get several opportunities to boost the size of your bank balance. Don't waste them.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Mars, planet of ambition, is now well established in your birth sign, which means you can at last start putting your plans into effect. Take responsibility for your own success — and take what it is you desire.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You like to see the world through rose-tinted spectacles but you may have to work harder at it today. When things go wrong — and sometimes they will — don't assume that the sky is about to fall. It's never that bad.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

If you make the effort to work with people, there is no limit to what you can accomplish over the next few days. Join forces with those who share your dreams. Together you can make them happen.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Whatever your career may be, it will take on more importance now and in the near future. It's not about your worldly status, it's about what your talents are and how you can use them for the greater good.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

You can, if you wish, throw caution to the wind and do as you please. You can, if you wish, neglect your chores and indulge your passions. And you should. You very much need some down time — and that time is now. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Teams, Author, Places, Symbol

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG

Across

- Steve McQueen's first major movie, with "The"
- NNW's opposite
- CAA giveaways
- Ready to be picked
- Toronto-born classical pianist Gould
- Chalet overhangs
- "Be with you in ____!" (2 wds.)
- Bassoon or clarinet
- Lockups at sea
- Montréal team
- Helps
- "Would I ____ you?" (2 wds.)
- Picnic pest
- I, Robot* author Isaac
- Alberta's northern member of the CFL
- Alta. neighbor
- Decorative stickers
- Underground digging workplace
- Québec peninsula
- Canadiens member, familiarly
- Distributed cards
- Prevaricator
- Medicinal amount
- Lean-____: makeshift sheds
- Where to find Kingston
- Parliament's home
- Bond creator Fleming
- "Tell ____ I Love Her": 1960 teenage tragedy hit
- Barroom projectile
- Canada symbol (2 wds.)
- Ontario-born Mandel of *Deal or No Deal*
- With respect to, legal letter style (2 wds.)

58. Great Lake

- Barbecue residue
- Campfire entertainment
- "And ____ word from our sponsor" (2 wds.)
- Bovine sounds
- My gal of song
- 1917 revolution casualty

Down

- Bric-a-____: knick-knacks
- Bart Simpson's sister
- Unclosed
- "Relax" (2 wds.)
- Icy precipitation
- "____ evil, speak ..." (2 wds.)
- Finishes
- ____ Provinces: they're on the Atlantic
- Gung-ho
- Coat hooks
- "Boo-o-o-o-o!"
- Mourn
- Online loan source
- Electron tube
- Blockhead
- Non Francophone
- Boyfriend in Shakespeare's time
- "Can you show me where ____?" (2 wds.)
- 1814-15 exile for Napoleon
- Mazda introduced in 1989
- At the minimum setting (2 wds.)
- good example: is a role model (2 wds.)
- Doubled, a train

58. Great Lake

- Barbecue residue
- Campfire entertainment
- "And ____ word from our sponsor" (2 wds.)
- Bovine sounds
- My gal of song
- 1917 revolution casualty

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